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UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1993-1994 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1995

PART I. AFRICA

Section 15 - Senegal

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.94-03097 (E)

I.15 SENEGAL

Country Overview

Characteristics of the refugee population

1. At 31 December 1993, the overall refugee caseload in Senegal was estimated at 72,965 persons, including 67,844 persons from Mauritania, 5,001 from Guinea-Bissau and 158 urban refugees of various nationalities, most of whom are from the subregion.

2. The flow of Mauritanian refugees to Senegal dates back to 1989; they are Peuhl and Toucouleur herders and/or farmers who have settled in 200 villages along the Senegal River. About 25 per cent of the refugee population consists of women, as against 20 per cent men and 55 per cent children under 18 years of age. Of 67,844 Mauritanian refugees, 57,462 receive material assistance from UNHCR.

3. The refugees from Guinea-Bissau, who have been in Senegal since 1970, are now truly self-reliant.

Major developments

4. Following the inter-community violence which took place in the region of Kayes in Mali between Soninkés and Peuhls in early 1993, the Peuhls took refuge in Senegal in the Bakel area, thus increasing Senegal's overall refugee caseload.

5. In early February 1994, a joint World Food Programme (WFP)/UNHCR field mission recommended that assistance for Mauritanian refugees should be maintained until late 1994. Only about 2,100 refugees were considered self-reliant in late 1993.

6. The 50 per cent devaluation of the CFA franc was accompanied by a widespread increase in prices and the cost of living. This situation has had repercussions on the cost of UNHCR programmes.

Programme objectives and priorities

7. UNHCR will continue to help the urban and rural refugees to meet their health, shelter and education needs and will promote activities (agriculture) likely to enable the refugees to achieve self-reliance.

8. In addition to its efforts to promote material well-being, UNHCR will consider possibilities of holding negotiations will all parties concerned with a view to organizing consultations on the voluntary repatriation of the Mauritanian refugees in 1994. Some 44,000 persons have indicated that they wish to return to their country of origin. To this end, the Regional Office will prepare a plan of action for the registration of refugees who are candidates for repatriation.

9. In view of the growing number of young persons who are completing their secondary studies and problems with access to employment, UNHCR will focus on their vocational training, as well as on the training of refugee women and children.

Arrangements for implementation/related inputs

10. All activities on behalf of refugees in Senegal are officially coordinated by the Commissariat à l'Assistance pour les Rapatriés et Personnes Deplacées (CARPD), a body established by the Government of Senegal. It thus continues to be UNHCR's main partner in its activities on behalf of refugees.

11. The direct implementation of the care and maintenance assistance project for urban refugees is the responsibility of the non-governmental organization, ENDA Tiers Monde, UNHCR's operational partner.

12. In rural areas, the settlement project for Mauritarian refugees is being implemented by several agencies, including the African Office for Development and Cooperation (OFADEC), which is responsible for food distribution, agricultural training and the promotion of income-generating activities.

13. Activities in other sectors, particularly health and education, are being carried out by the health and education departments, respectively. Caritas is also taking part in educational activities.

14. WFP will continue to provide basic food items.

15. The mainly agricultural integrated rural development programme for Mauritanian refugees is being financed by German cooperation, "Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit" (GTZ), and will be implemented from 1995 to 1998.

16. In addition to this project, the European Community will finance a project, in the context of its PODOR development support programme, for hydro-agricultural development (rice growing and vegetable gardening). This project, which will be implemented in 1994 by the Société d'aménagement et de développement (SAED), will help improve the living standard of 400 families, who will thus become self-reliant in terms of food.

17. A second agricultural project covering three years (1994, 1995 and 1996) will be implemented by GTZ as of this year. It will meet the needs of Mauritanian refugees who have not yet benefited from assistance of this kind.

General Programmes

(a) Variations in planned activities in 1993

18. As planned in 1993, subsistence allowances were granted, on the one hand, to candidates for refugee status during the period preceding their eligibility and, on the other, until durable solutions could be found. Some dependent refugees received assistance covering health, subsistence needs and rent. These cases, most of which are individual, were handled by project social work personnel in Senegal.

19. The progress made in 1993 in the implementation of the assistance programme for Mauritanian refugees settled along the Senegal river was very limited. Only 2,100 refugees receiving assistance were considered self-reliant; 7,100 others, to whom UNHCR should have stopped granting assistance at the end of 1993, are still part of the group of needy refugees to be assisted in 1994.

20. In the vocational training area, a General Programme allocation enabled 40 students to begin vocational training in various occupational fields.

21. The results of the nutritional survey conducted in 1993 show that the refugees live in conditions which are regarded as acceptable. However, the objective of self-reliance is far from having been achieved. In 1993, about 900 refugees returned spontaneously to Mauritania.

(b) 1994 planned implementation

Care and maintenance

22. UNHCR will maintain its assistance for refugees settled in rural areas and for urban refugees who have not yet achieved self-reliance.

23. In 1994, the care and maintenance assistance project will provide multi-sectoral assistance (shelter, health, subsistence and education) for 120 refugees of various origins living in Dakar.

Local settlement

24. The self-reliance of the Mauritanian refugees who do not want repatriation continues to be the main objective of the integration programme financed by UNHCR.

Voluntary repatriation

25. About 44,000 of the 59,000 Mauritanian refugees settled along the river in Poudor department have opted for voluntary repatriation. In 1994, UNHCR will try to work together with all parties concerned to find ways and means of carrying out this repatriation operation. An allocation to be incurred against the Programme Reserve will be requested for the implementation of this operation if the consultations are successful.

26. In preparation for the organization of the repatriation operation, the refugees will be registered and a plan of action drawn up.

27. In addition to the probable repatriation of Mauritanian refugees, the UNHCR Regional Office in Dakar considers that some refugees from the subregion and elsewhere might opt for voluntary repatriation. According to a preliminary estimate, there would be between 50 and 100 refugees to be repatriated in 1994. An allocation has been approved under the subregional project.

Resettlement

28. In 1994, about 10 refugees might opt for resettlement under UNHCR auspices. A budget allocation has been earmarked for this purpose for all candidates in the area covered by the Regional Office.

(c) 1995 programme proposals

Care and maintenance

29. This project will be renewed in 1995 for 100 urban refugees who have not achieved self-reliance. It will take the form of a multi-sectoral operation and will be implemented by ENDA Tiers Monde and the Regional Office in Dakar. The initial 1995 allocation will cover the urban refugees' needs.

Local settlement

30. The local settlement project will have two parts. The first involves the execution of various productive activities, most of which are agricultural, on behalf of 15,000 Mauritanian refugees who have opted for local settlement and the second, care and maintenance for nearly 44,000 Mauritanian refugees who are candidates for voluntary repatriation.

31. An allocation has been earmarked for secondary education and vocational training for 35 and 40 students, respectively.

Voluntary repatriation

32. The urban refugees and those living in the countries covered by the Regional Office who have not achieved self-reliance, but wish to be repatriated will be assisted by the Office. The 1995 allocation for the entire subregion will also cover the needs of candidates for repatriation from Senegal.

Resettlement

33. The resettlement of refugees in a third country, in the context of family reunification or on any other grounds considered relevant by the Regional Office, will continue in 1995.

Special Programmes

Education Account

34. The education programme for 60 students now receiving assistance in the area should continue until they have completed their studies; $228,000 have been allocated from the 1994 budget.

German Cooperation Programme (DAFI)

35. The German Corporation Programme (DAFI) will continue in 1994-1995 on behalf of the students now receiving assistance and the number of beneficiaries might be increased to include new students who are in need of material support from UNHCR.

Programme delivery and administrative support costs

(a) Variations in planned activities in 1993

36. The UNHCR Regional Office for Western Africa is based in Dakar and also covers Burkina Faso, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger and Togo. As in the past, the number of international staff and local staff in 1993 was maintained roughly at the 1992 level. Only an international field officer post was created in Guinea-Bissau, shortly after the inflow of Senegalese refugees to that country. The related costs and the costs of purchasing equipment and office supplies, which were not initially planned, were covered by the budget for the Senegal Office. Also included were the administrative costs of the St. Louis Office, which is directly responsible for monitoring the implementation of the assistance programme for Mauritanian refugees. It was decided that the Matam sub-office, which was designed as a stopgap measure, but is now just ticking over, was to be closed in early 1994. It has had very few administrative expenses.

37. With regard to the administrative expenses of the Regional Office, it should be noted that the figures used to calculate common staff costs were budgeted by using figures lower than the actual level of these costs and that the result was a sharp increase in costs. Like many African countries Senegal, has conditions of service, such as rotation and more frequent home leave, which result in higher costs.

(b) 1994 planned implementation

38. In 1994, the UNHCR Regional Office is monitoring programme implementation and refugee protection by its staff. Transport and mission costs in all countries covered by the Regional Office, as well as office equipment, operating expenses and the renewal of certain vehicles and office supplies, were included in the 1994 revised budget, which is more or less the same as the initial 1994 budget. The 50 per cent devaluation of the CFA franc might have resulted in a decrease in the budget needed in United States dollars, but it in fact led to a rise in local prices and a cost-of-living increase which was taken into account in the revised budget.

(c) 1995 programme proposals

39. It is estimated that 1995 programme administration costs will be close to those of 1994.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN SENEGAL

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1993	1994		1995	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1993 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
929.0 a/	839.8	191.2	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	165.1
1 406.2 b/	1.070.2	780.7	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	548.4
169.4 c/	73.1	–	RESETTLEMENT	–
–	–	1.649.1	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Annexes I a and II a	1 470.4
2 504.6	1 983.1	2 621.0	SUB-TOTAL OPERATIONS	2 183.9
994.8	972.9	436.4	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Annexes I b and II b	378.5
3 499.4	2 956.0	3 057.4	TOTAL (1)	2 562.4
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
257.7	228.0	228.0	EDUCATION ACCOUNT 60 university scholarships	133.4
429.7	–	–	OTHER TRUST FUNDS Various assistance	–
97.6	131.0	21.8	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT Junior Professional Officer	21.8
785.0	359.0	249.8	TOTAL (2)	155.2
4 284.4	3 315.0	3 307.2	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	2 717.6

a/ of which US$ 274 incurred against Overall Allocation
b/ of which US$ 25 147 incurred against Overall Allocation
c/ of which US$ 19 488 incurred against Overall Allocation

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